

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 **Claim 1 (currently amended):** A high frequency heating
2 apparatus for heating a thing to be heated, comprising:
3 a high frequency generating portion;
4 a heating chamber for accommodating the thing to be
5 heated;
6 a steam supply portion for supplying steam into ~~and~~
7 ~~serving to supply at least one of a high frequency and~~
8 ~~steam into~~ the heating chamber located in the lower back
9 portion of the heating chamber, and,
10 a partition plate which serves to mount the thing to
11 be heated thereon and is provided to be upward removable
12 apart from a bottom face of the heating chamber at a
13 predetermined interval, thereby dividing a space in the
14 heating chamber,
15 wherein at least one of a high frequency and steam
16 generating portion is supplied to the heating chamber,
17 wherein the steam is supplied into an upper space
18 positioned above the partition plate.

Claim 2 (canceled)

1 **Claim 3 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 2, wherein a gap is provided
3 between a peripheral edge of the partition plate and a side
4 wall of the heating chamber, and the steam generated in the
5 steam generating portion passes through a side wall of the
6 heating chamber and is guided to the upper space of the
7 heating chamber through the gap.

1 **Claim 4 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the partition plate
3 has a through hole on a peripheral part, and the steam
4 generated in the steam generating portion is guided to the
5 upper space of the heating chamber via the through hole.

1 **Claim 5 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the partition plate
3 includes a high frequency heating member.

1 **Claim 6 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the partition plate
3 includes a high frequency shielding unit.

1 **Claim 7 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the high frequency
3 shielding unit includes a metal plate.

1 **Claim 8 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising
3 preheating means for raising an atmospheric temperature in
4 the heating chamber.

1 **Claim 9 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the preheating
3 means includes an upper heater provided in an upper part of
4 the heating chamber.

1 **Claim 10 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the preheating
3 means includes a high frequency heating member provided on
4 the partition plate.

1 **Claim 11 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 1, wherein steam delivery
3 means has a steam delivery path for guiding generated steam
4 from an inner part of the heating chamber to an outside of
5 the heating chamber, thereby introducing the steam into the
6 heating chamber again.

1 **Claim 12 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the partition plate
3 is engaged with an engaging portion provided in a plurality
4 of height positions on an internal wall surface of the

5 heating chamber.

1 **Claim 13 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the steam
3 generating portion is provided along a wall surface on a
4 back side of a bottom face of the heating chamber.

1 **Claim 14 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the steam supply
3 portion is constituted in such a manner that the steam
4 directly hits upon the thing to be heated.

1 **Claim 15 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising high
3 frequency distributing means for distributing and supplying
4 a high frequency into the heating chamber.

1 **Claim 16 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a
3 control portion for controlling the high frequency
4 generating portion, the steam supply portion and the
5 preheating means,

6 the control portion being constituted to execute, in
7 this order, a preheating step of heating the heating
8 chamber by heat generation of the preheating means and a
9 main heating step of supplying at least one of a high

10 frequency generated from the high frequency generating
11 portion and steam supplied from the steam supply portion to
12 carry out a heating process over the thing to be heated.

1 **Claim 17 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a
3 control portion for controlling the high frequency
4 generating portion, the steam supply portion and the
5 preheating means,

6 the control portion having an interrupt processing
7 function for supplying steam from the steam supply portion
8 into the heating chamber for a predetermined time while the
9 thing to be heated is heated.

1 **Claim 18 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising a steam
3 supply switch for executing the interrupt processing in an
4 optional timing.

1 **Claim 19 (new):** The high frequency heating apparatus
2 according to claim 1 further comprising:

3 a feed water tank;

4 a feed water pipe connecting the feed water tank to
5 the steam supply portion where the feed water pipe further
6 comprises an intermediate portion; and,

7 a heater to heat the water in the intermediate

8 portion.

1 **Claim 20 (new):** The high frequency heating apparatus
2 according to claim 1 further comprising an evaporator pan
3 having a detachable cover.